

IN THE CLAIMS:

The current status of all of the claims in the application, including any previously canceled or withdrawn claims, is listed below.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of interactively displaying a set of records and their associated attributes, comprising:

defining a set of graphic images, wherein each graphic image represents a range of values;

generating a first surface map of the set of records with (1) graphic images, representing attributes associated with each record in the set, arranged along a first dimension, and (2) the records, represented by a collection of graphic images, arranged along a second dimension;

generating a second visual representation of a plurality of the records in the set;

displaying the first surface map and second visual representations such that they appear on a display simultaneously;

receiving input from a user selecting a subset of the records from the first surface map;

and

altering the second visual representation to highlight the selected subset, simultaneous to the displaying the first visual representation.

2.(Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the graphic images are color-coded blocks.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the second visual representation is a galaxy view.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the records are ordered into groups.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the groups are ordered based on statistical correlation.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the order of display of the attributes associated with the records is based on statistical correlation.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the order of display of the attributes associated with the records is based on cluster analysis.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising analyzing an index to determine if one or more of the records in the selected subset is shown in the second visual representation.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising generating a dendogram to indicate relationships between records.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining a text-based identification of the record represented in the selected portion of the first surface map; and
displaying the text-based identification.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of interactively displaying records and their corresponding attributes, comprising:

providing a surface map representing a set of records and a set of views for simultaneous display;

linking the surface map to ~~a~~ the set of views, wherein at least one of the views comprises a visual representation of a plurality of the records in the set;

receiving an input signal selecting a portion of the surface map; and

indicating, in a view linked to the surface map, ~~at least one~~ a plurality of the records corresponding to the selected portion, simultaneous with the displaying the set of views.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of interactively displaying a set of records and their corresponding attributes, comprising:

defining a set of graphic images, wherein each graphic image represents a range of values;

generating a three-dimensional surface map with (1) each record in the set arranged along a first dimension, (2) graphic images, representing attributes associated with the records,

arranged along a second dimension, and (3) the values associated with the attributes arranged along a third dimension;

generating a second visual representation of a plurality of the records in the set;

displaying simultaneously, the surface map and the second visual representation;

receiving input from a user selecting a subset of the records on the surface map;

analyzing an index to determine if the selected subset is shown in the second visual representation; and

altering the second visual representation based on the input, when the selected subset is shown in the second visual representation, simultaneous with the displaying the surface map.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the three-dimensional surface map may be rotated in any of the three dimensions.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for interactively displaying a set of records and their associated attributes, comprising:

at least one memory having program instructions; and

at least one processor configured to execute the program instructions to perform the operations of:

defining a set of graphic images, wherein each graphic image represents a range of values;

generating a first surface map with the records of the set arranged along a first dimension and graphic images, representing attributes associated with the records, arranged along a second dimension;

generating a second visual representation of a plurality of the records in the set;

displaying, simultaneously, the first surface map and the second visual representation;

receiving input from a user selecting a subset of the records from the first surface map; and

analyzing an index to determine if one or more records in the selected subset are shown in another view; and

altering the second visual representation based on the input, when one or more records in the selected subset are shown in another view, simultaneous with the displaying the first surface map.

17. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for interactively displaying a set of records and their associated attributes, comprising:

means for defining a set of graphic images, wherein each graphic image represents a range of values;

means for generating a first surface map with the records of the set arranged along a first dimension and graphic images, representing attributes associated with the records, arranged along a second dimension;

means for generating a second visual representation of a plurality of the records from the set;

means for simultaneously displaying the first surface map and the second visual representation;

means for receiving input from a user selecting a subset of the records on the surface map;

means for analyzing an index to determine if one or more records in the selected subset are shown in another view; and

means for altering the second visual representation based on the input, when one or more records in the selected subset are shown in the second visual representation, simultaneous with the displaying the first surface map.

18. (Canceled)
